

Twelfth Census of the United States.

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## AGRICULTURE.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

HON. WILLIAM R. MERRIAM,  
*Director of the Census.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for publication in bulletin form, the statistics of agriculture for the District of Columbia, taken in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of the act of March 3, 1899. This section requires that—

The schedules relating to agriculture shall comprehend the following topics: Name of occupant of each farm, color of occupant, tenure, acreage, value of farm and improvements, acreage of different products, quantity and value of products, and number and value of live stock. All questions as to quantity and value of crops shall relate to the year ending December thirty-first next preceding the enumeration.

The farming operations of the District of Columbia at the present time and the changes made in the past fifty years are such as are usually found contiguous to a prosperous city. With the rapid growth of Washington the area in the District devoted to the raising of crops and the grazing of live stock has contracted and land values have greatly increased. The land now in farms is largely held in anticipation of its ultimate sale for building purposes or subdivision into building lots. Its present value is, therefore, not based upon productiveness, but rather upon prospective use, so that the

smaller acreage devoted to agriculture in 1900 has a greater aggregate value than had the larger areas in 1890 and earlier years.

The incomes derived from many of the farms are insufficient to meet the operating expenses and interest upon capital invested. The owners, when their lands are used for agricultural purposes, are generally content with small present incomes, as the steady advance in values insures adequate future returns. The florists' establishments form a notable exception in the matter of present remuneration.

The Eleventh Census, in a special report upon commercial floriculture, gave the statistics of 35 establishments raising flowers and ornamental plants, but such statistics were not included with those of farms in the general agricultural report of 1890. To make the figures for the Eleventh and Twelfth censuses fully comparable, allowance has been made for this fact in some of the tables.

Very respectfully,

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*Chief Statistician for Agriculture.*

# AGRICULTURE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## NUMBER AND AREA OF FARMS.

There are 269 farms in the District of Columbia with an aggregate area of 8,489 acres, of which 5,934 are improved, and 2,555 are unimproved. The farms contain 22.1 per cent of the 38,400 acres of land surface.

Table 1 gives, by decades for fifty years, the number of farms reported, the total and average acreage, and the per cent of farm land improved.

TABLE 1.—FARMS AND FARM ACREAGE: 1850-1900.

YEAR.	Number of farms.	NUMBER OF ACRES IN FARMS.				Per cent improved.
		Total.	Improved.	Unimproved.	Average.	
1900.....	269	8,489	5,934	2,555	32	69.9
1890.....	382	11,745	9,898	1,847	31	84.3
1880.....	435	18,146	12,632	5,514	42	69.6
1870.....	209	11,677	8,266	3,411	56	70.8
1860.....	238	34,263	17,474	16,789	144	51.0
1850.....	267	27,454	16,267	11,187	103	59.3

The census of 1860 reported the largest area of land in farms, 34,263 acres, constituting 89.2 per cent of the land surface, or practically all of the land not occupied by buildings or used for parks and kindred purposes. Of the total land in farms in 1860, 16,789 acres, or nearly one-half, were unimproved and included a number of large tracts of wooded land. The largest number of farms was reported in 1880. Since that time there has been a continual decrease in the number and acreage of farms.

## FARM RESOURCES AND PRODUCTS.

Table 2 gives, for each census year beginning with 1850, the values of farm land and improvements, implements and machinery, live stock, and farm products.

TABLE 2.—VALUE OF FARM RESOURCES AND PRODUCTS: 1850-1900.

YEAR.	Land, improvements, and buildings.	Implements and machinery.	Live stock.	Farm products. <sup>1</sup>
1900 <sup>(a)</sup> .....	\$11,273,990	\$136,060	\$125,826	\$870,247
1890.....	7,210,490	91,810	118,901	357,250
1880.....	6,471,120	79,760	129,120	373,070
1870.....	3,632,403	36,798	123,300	514,441
1860.....	3,800,230	39,450	114,916	* 319,517
1850.....	2,989,267	54,408	109,640	.....
1850.....	1,730,460	40,220	71,643	.....

<sup>1</sup> Of year preceding that designated.

<sup>2</sup> Includes betterments and additions to live stock.

In the census reports prior to 1900 the statistics of florists' establishments were not included with those of

farms. Hence, for 1900 two sets of figures are given, the one marked "a" including, and the one marked "b" excluding, florists' establishments. The latter should be used in making comparisons between reports for 1900 and previous census years.

In the last ten years the land, including buildings, used for ordinary farm purposes has increased in value from \$6,471,120 to \$7,210,490, or 11.4 per cent, although its area has decreased 27.7 per cent. The value of the farm implements increased 15.1 per cent, while that of farm products decreased 4.2, and that of live stock 7.9 per cent.

## FARM TENURE.

Table 3 gives a comparative exhibit of farm tenures in the District. The per cent of owners operating farms decreased from 61.8 in 1880 to 56.9 in 1900, and of share tenants from 3.7 to 1.1, while that of cash tenants increased from 34.5 to 42.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF FARMS OF SPECIFIED TENURE IN 1880, 1890, AND 1900.

YEAR.	Total number of farms.	NUMBER OF—			PERCENTAGE OF—		
		Owners.	Cash tenants.	Share tenants.	Owners.	Cash tenants.	Share tenants.
1900.....	269	153	113	3	56.9	42.0	1.1
1890.....	382	242	131	9	63.3	34.3	2.4
1880.....	435	269	150	16	61.8	34.5	3.7

In the following table the tenures of farms for 1900 are given by race of farmer. The farms in Table 3 under "owners" are subdivided in Table 4 into groups designated as owners, part owners, and managers. The first group includes the farms of those who own all the land in their farms; the second, farms of those who own a part and rent the remainder from others; and the third group comprises farms conducted by salaried managers or overseers.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER OF FARMS CLASSIFIED BY RACE AND TENURE, JUNE 1, 1900.

RACE.	Total number of farms.	Owners.	Part owners.	Managers.	Cash tenants.	Share tenants.
The District.....	269	123	10	20	113	3
White.....	252	119	9	18	103	3
Negro.....	17	4	1	2	10	.....

## RACE OF FARMER.

There are 252 white and 17 negro farmers. Of the white farmers, 119 are owners; 9 are part owners, as described; 18 are hired managers; 103 are cash tenants; and 3 are share tenants.

Of the negro farmers, 5 own their land in whole or in part. Their farms contain 29 acres, of which 25 are improved. The total value of the land is \$23,300, and the appurtenant buildings are worth \$4,400. These farms report implements and machinery worth \$390; live stock to the value of \$489; and farm incomes for 1899 amounting to \$4,244. Ten farms, aggregating 258 acres, are operated by negroes as cash tenants. The reported values are: Land, \$114,600; buildings, \$9,200; implements and machinery, \$1,200; and live stock, \$1,383. The total income from these farms in 1899 was \$10,300. Two farms, together consisting of 21 acres, valued at \$149,630, are operated by negroes as salaried managers.

Of the 17 farms operated by negroes, 1 contains less than 3 acres; 7 contain from 3 to 9 acres; 5 from 10 to 19 acres; 2 from 20 to 49 acres; and 2 from 50 to 99 acres; an average size for all of 18.1 acres.

Of the 252 farms of white farmers, 15 contain less than 3 acres; 44 from 3 to 9 acres; 82 from 10 to 19 acres; 69 from 20 to 49 acres; 29 from 50 to 99 acres; 9 from 100 to 174 acres; 2 from 175 to 259 acres; and 2 from 500 to 999 acres; an average size for all of 32.5 acres.

## OWNERSHIP OF RENTED FARMS.

One hundred and sixteen farms are cultivated by tenants. Of these farms, 1 individual owns 5; another owns 3; 2 individuals own 4 each; 7 own 2 each; and 77 own 1 each. The ownership of 9 is unreported. Of the rented farms of known ownership, 98 are the property of persons residing in the District, and 9 belong to nonresidents.

## CHARACTER AND INCOME OF FARMS.

One hundred and twenty farms and other agricultural establishments are classed as market gardens or vegetable farms, as they derive more than 40 per cent of their income from vegetables. Classifying the other farms upon the same basis, i. e., by the principal source of income, 75 are designated dairy farms; 33 florist establishments; 6 live-stock farms; 6 fruit farms; 3 hay and grain farms; and 26 miscellaneous. Of products other than those fed to live stock, 2 farms report none; 3 less in value than \$50; 4 from \$50 to \$99; 26 from \$100 to \$249; 42 from \$250 to \$499; 57 from \$500 to \$999; 60 from \$1,000 to \$2,449; and 75 report \$2,500 and over.

## LIVE STOCK.

TABLE 5.—NUMBER AND VALUE OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS, FOWLS, AND BEES, JUNE 1, 1900.

ANIMALS.	Age, in years.	ON FARMS.			Not on farms.
		Num-ber.	Value.	Average value.	
Calves .....	Under 1 .....	69	\$605	\$8.77	Number. 16
Steers .....	1 and under 2 .....	5	75	15.00	1
Steers .....	2 and under 3 .....	1	25	25.00	2
Steers .....	3 and over .....	22	1,060	48.18	1
Bulls .....	1 and over .....	76	1,357	17.86	28
Heifers .....	1 and under 2 .....	1,251	50,399	40.29	558
Dairy cows .....	2 and over .....	38	950	25.00	9
Other cows .....	2 and over .....	16	590	36.88	10
Colts .....	Under 1 .....	24	1,475	61.46	48
Horses .....	1 and under 2 .....	814	55,297	67.93	11,541
Horses .....	2 and over .....	81	6,050	74.69	276
Mules .....	2 and over .....				1
Asses and burros .....	All ages .....				14
Lambs .....	Under 1 .....				15
Sheep (ewes) .....	1 and over .....				1
Sheep (rams and wethers) .....	1 and over .....				332
Swine .....	All ages .....	802	4,097	5.11	64
Goats .....	All ages .....	9	39	4.33	
Fowls: <sup>1</sup>					
Chickens <sup>2</sup> .....		8,004			
Turkeys .....		46			
Geese .....		16			
Ducks .....		227			
Bees (swarms of) .....		59	199	3.37	
Value of all live stock .....			125,326		

<sup>1</sup> The number reported is of fowls over 3 months old. The value is of all, old and young.

<sup>2</sup> Including Guinea fowls.

The live stock on farms has a reported value of \$125,326. Of this amount \$57,362 represent the value of horses, and \$50,399 that of dairy cows. No report of the value of domestic animals not on farms was secured. The number of such animals, however, was obtained for the first time, and is shown in Table 5. It is probable that the city animals have an average value somewhat higher than the farm animals, but, allowing the same average, the total live-stock value is approximately \$875,000.

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Tables 6 and 7 give the quantities and values of the farm products of 1899.

TABLE 6.—QUANTITIES AND VALUES OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS, VALUE OF FOWLS RAISED, AND VALUES OF ANIMALS SOLD AND SLAUGHTERED ON FARMS IN 1899.

PRODUCTS.	Unit of weight or measure.	Quantity.	Value.
Milk .....	Gallons .....	850,349	\$185,095
Cream .....	do .....	100	
Butter .....	Pounds .....	3,478	
Eggs .....	Dozens .....	42,580	6,492
Poultry .....	.....	.....	5,480
Honey .....	Pounds .....	530	55
Animals sold .....	.....	.....	475
Animals slaughtered .....	.....	.....	2,440
Total .....	.....	.....	201,088

TABLE 7.—ACRES, QUANTITIES, AND VALUES OF VEGETABLE PRODUCTS OF 1899.

PRODUCTS.	Acres.	Quantities, in bushels.	Value.
Corn.....	462	14,980	\$6,322
Wheat.....	17	410	249
Oats.....	42	620	206
Rye.....	22	290	162
Hay and forage.....	1,228	12,241	22,772
Dry beans.....	1	12	38
Potatoes.....	194	15,586	9,546
Sweet potatoes.....	145	19,936	13,078
Onions.....	38	6,541	3,270
Miscellaneous vegetables.....	947		84,846
Small fruits.....	83	2119,240	7,855
Forest products.....			50
Orchard fruits.....	345	1,002	773
Grapes.....	310	434,300	539
Figs.....		4650	13
Flowers and foliage plants.....			519,565
Nursery stock.....			525
Total.....	3,234		669,209

1 Tons. 2 Quarts. 3 Acreage estimated from trees or vines. 4 Pounds.

The total value of agricultural products was \$870,247. Of that amount \$24,290 represent products fed to live stock, and deducted leaves a gross income of \$845,957. Of the vegetable products itemized above, \$519,565 represent the value of flowers and plants grown in florists' establishments and on farms. The value of all other products was \$350,682. Of the latter amount, \$186,096, or 53.1 per cent, represent dairy products; \$110,240, or 31.4 per cent, potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, and other vegetables; \$9,180, or 2.6 per cent, fruit; and \$45,166, or 12.9 per cent, miscellaneous crops and animal products.

#### CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE SINCE 1890.

In 1890 the number of dairy cows on farms was 863, and in 1889 they produced 459,978 gallons of milk. In 1900 the cows numbered 1,251, and in 1899 produced 850,349 gallons of milk. The number of cows increased 45 per cent, and the quantity of milk 84.9 per cent.

In 1889 the value of market-garden products, including small fruits, was \$74,890. It is uncertain whether these figures include the value of potatoes and sweet potatoes. In 1899 the value of market-garden products, including potatoes and sweet potatoes and small fruits, was \$118,095; excluding the potatoes, it was \$95,471. The market-garden industry has made an advance second only to that of the dairy interests. Excepting floriculture, practically all other branches of agriculture and horticulture have declined.

#### THE USE OF GLASS IN AGRICULTURE.

In comparison with the states and territories, the District of Columbia leads in the use of glass in agriculture. Of the 269 farms and florists' establishments, 43, or 16 per cent, report land under glass. The total area of such land is 914,520 square feet, or 21 acres.

Of this area 642,000 square feet, or 14.7 acres, are in 33 establishments, engaged almost exclusively in the cultivation of flowers or ornamental plants. The greenhouses of these establishments have a glass surface of 855,033 square feet, the ratio to the area of land under glass being about 4 to 3. The reported value of the structures and other buildings is \$699,700.

In addition to the above, 10 farms, market gardens, and nurseries, reported the use of glass in the propagation of early vegetables, fruits, nursery stock, and flowers, the land so covered having an area of 272,520 square feet, or 6.3 acres. No report was secured of the value of these glass structures.

#### COMMERCIAL FLORICULTURE.

The importance of commercial floriculture is shown by the following facts: The 33 establishments in the District making floriculture their principal business in 1900 report 461 acres of land, valued, with improvements, at \$4,063,500. This is 36 per cent of the value of all land used for agricultural purposes. The value of the flowers and ornamental plants raised was \$507,123, and of miscellaneous products, \$5,874. The principal operating expenses were, for labor, \$118,630, and for fertilizers, \$7,790. The value of the total products (\$512,997) was equal to 12.5 per cent of the capital invested, including the value of buildings, implements, and live stock. For farms and market gardens the products represented only 4.8 per cent of the capital invested.

The value of all flowers and ornamental plants grown in greenhouses and in the fields on farms was \$519,565. This was 59.7 per cent of the value of all agricultural products of the District.

The foregoing statistics include reports from three Government institutions—the Botanic Gardens, the greenhouses of the Department of Agriculture, and the White House conservatory. The numerous private conservatories are, however, not reported. While statements concerning them would have augmented considerably the number of establishments, no marked change in the aggregate amount of capital invested, or in the amount derived from floriculture would have resulted. The rule governing the collection of statistics of minor farms and florists' establishments was to omit the reports of all that did not employ constantly the labor of at least one person during the year 1899.

In 1890 the establishments growing flowers, for which reports were published, numbered 35. They made use of 61 acres of land, and had a glass surface of 649,310 square feet. The land and buildings used had a reported value of \$571,393, and the products were worth \$530,552. The expenditures for labor were \$155,616.